From: JSteele76@aol.com@inetgw

To: Microsoft ATR

Date: 1/15/02 5:03pm

Subject: Microsoft Settlement

## **Government Persons**

My comments on the Microsoft Settlement issue is, I'm afraid, only pointing out the obvious, however, the fact that the issue is still in doubt suggests my views should be expressed.

I own no Microsoft stock and don't work for microsoft. I have no close friends or relations that work for microsoft. I am using an apple Computer to send this through AOL Internet access. I do use Microsoft programs.

The fact that two of the states not accepting the settlement are California and Massachusetts seems to, in itself, show why the issue is purely political. These two states alone contain many major Microsoft competitors who have lost business because Microsoft was just better than they were. Success in our economy should be based on free market, not on government decree. Microsoft's products have been better accepted by the free market. Bundled products are indeed better than a bunch of incompatible products. Apple, Linix, Unix, etc.s systems are there as options but more people freely choose Microsoft.

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